Kickapoo Environmental Office

The Green Clan

SEPTEMBER 2010 VOLUME 4, ISSUE 1

Chloramines and Your Letter of Noncompliance

Some Information Derived from the EPA Website

The conversion from chlorine to chloramines took place on July 19th. Both of these water treatments are designed to eliminate diseases such as cholera, typhoid fever, and hepatitis. The problem with using chlorine was that it created contaminating byproducts of trihalomethanes and haloacetic acid. These byproducts are common when using chlorine to treat water, but they violate epa standards and we were required to mail out the letter every quarter, so long as we remained in violation. Now that we've made the switch to chloramines, there should be no more violation letters, right?

Actually, that's not right. Violation letters will likely continue for almost another year. That's because the system works on what's known as a running annual average. The readings of 4 quarters are combined to get the average, so the first quarter with chloramines will be combined with 3 quarters of chlorine to get an annual average. After about nine months, we'll be getting readings based mostly on chloramines. For now we will combine the readings, and that means you will still be getting a letter indicating that we are out even though those two byproducts aren't usually generated with chloramines.

Basically, don't be confused when you receive the next letter of noncompliance. Your water is good, if not better, using chloramines. Chloramine actually works better than chlorine to provide longer lasting water treatment in your pipes. Chloramine is a combination of chlorine and ammonia. The reduced chlorine levels will reduce our byproduct contamination in time.

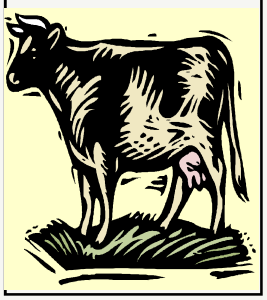
Making Your Voice Heard by Mike Kelley

For those of you that don't know, Sunflower Electric is planning an expansion of their coal fired plant in Holcomb, Kansas. The cost of the construction is currently estimated at around 3.4 billion. If built, the 895 Megawatt plant is projected to burn around 4,712,500 tons of coal per year. Of this, only 20% of the electricity generated is meant to stay in Kansas. That means for those of us east of this plant, we get none of the power and all the pollution.

By the time you read this, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment should be in the second period of public comments.

Whether you are for the power plant, or think the money would be better spent on cleaner and renewable energies, you need to make your voice heard. Write to: KDHE Attn: Sunflower Comments
1000 SW Jackson Suite # 310
Topeka, KS 66612-1366
Or email to:
sunflowercomments@kdheks.gov

- **September 30, 2010** is the final day to exchange your old gas can for a new one. If you want to trade call Mike Kelley at 785-486-2601 ext: 6. He'll help you.



Kickapoo Environmental Office

1107 Goldfinch Rd
Horton, KS 66439

Phone: 785-486-2601
Fax: 785-486-2445

We're on the Web!
Check out all of our issues on The Kickapoo

Community Cleanup in October

October 4th through the 8th is the dates for the next community cleanup. We will pickup your large bulky items and have them hauled away. Pile your stuff near the curb and we'll pick it up on the designated days (look for the posted flyer). If it is too difficult for you to haul it to the curbside, then give us a call at 785-486-25601 ext: 2, and we'll arrange for workers to come to your house and haul it out for you. During this cleanup week , we accept no hazardous wastes, no tires, no lead paints. Call us if you have questions or concerns. Thank you.

When recycling plastic, throw away your lids Your bottles are a number 1 or #2 plastic, and the lids are #5. #5 doesn't mix well with #1 or 2. They hate each other. Keep them separate.

Tire Roundup in September

We are sponsoring another tire roundup for the week of Sept. 13 thru 17. Bring your old tires and drop them off behind the environmental office. Stack them 5 or 6 high and

Algal Blooms in Ponds

Information derived from the internet

The dog days of summer are, according to some, the hottest days of summer when dogs pant and get lazy. They are also the times when you should be cautious about swimming in ponds due to greater potential for algal blooms in ponds.

Algal blooms are a rapid increase in algae to an aquatic system, and in freshwater, that increase is often due to farm runoff of nutrients such as potassium or nitrogen. Most of the time algae blooms may occur and be harmless, but occasionally an ample algae bloom may also produce microsystins. Microsystins are bacterial toxins and should not be ingested even through accidental swallowing, as there is the potential for illness and/or organ damage. Open sores, of course, are also exposed to the bacteria. Algae doesn't live very long, so as they die and decay, they release some toxins into the water. Often a person can swim through these toxins with no harmful effects. The pond must be experiencing farm nutrient runoff to have an algae bloom.

Rains and winter ice restore oxygen to the water, as well as high winds, and the threat of algae blooms disappears with changing seasons.

If the algae bloom is starting to kill animals or fish, then humans certainly should refrain from swimming in that pond or eating the fish. Decaying algae reduces oxygen in water and can cause a big fish kill.

Algae blooms are sometimes green or blue green in color and sometimes even red. They look like a greenish cloud in the water. They can look like greenish hair-like spinach or brownish clumps of horsehair.

In most ponds, algae blooms aren't a serious threat, but be careful, and know that they could be back next dogs days or even in the spring with early farm runoff.